

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2020**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Alexander M. Padro, ANC 6E01
Michael J. Brown, Secretary, ANC 6E02
Frank S. Wiggins, Vice Chair, ANC 6E03
Rachelle Nigro, Chair, ANC 6E04
Alex Marriott, Treasurer, ANC 6E05
Alvin Judd, ANC 6E06

Absent:

Kevin M. Rogers, ANC 6E07

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Rachelle Nigro with a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

III. FAREWELL TO COMMISSIONER MARRIOTT

Commissioner Nigro stated this is Commissioner Marriott's last Commission meeting. Commissioner Marriott stated that his work with the ANC 6E commissioners has been very rewarding and he expressed his appreciation to his constituents. Commissioner Nigro stated Commissioner Marriott has done an extraordinary job representing his constituents. Commissioner Wiggins stated he was a great chair and a good friend. Commissioner Padro thanked Commissioner Marriott for his service. Other commissioners wished him well.

IV. VOTE ON TREASURER ROLE

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that Commissioner Wiggins be nominated to serve as Treasurer of ANC 6E. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

V. PSA REPORTS – 1D, 3D

Crime statistics for the indicated periods are as follows:

Crime Stats for 1D Police District (PSA 103)		Number of crimes reported between:		
Crime Type	8/1/19-8/31/19	8/1/20-8/31/20	Change	
Homicide	0	0	↔	
Sex Abuse	1	0	↓	
Robbery Excluding Gun	1	0	↓	
Robbery With Gun	0	0	↔	
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Excluding Gun	0	0	↔	
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Gun	0	0	↔	
Total Violent Crime	2	0	↓	
Burglary	0	2	↑	
Theft	33	8	↓	
Theft F/Auto	16	10	↓	
Stolen Auto	2	3	↑	
Arson	0	0	↔	
Total Property Crime	51	23	↓	
Total Crime	53	23	↓	

Crime Stats for 3D Police District (PSA 308)		Number of crimes reported between:		
Crime Type	8/1/19-8/31/19	8/1/20-8/31/20	Change	
Homicide	0	1	↑	
Sex Abuse	0	1	↑	
Robbery Excluding Gun	1	2	↑	
Robbery With Gun	2	1	↓	
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Excluding Gun	3	0	↓	
Assault Dangerous Weapon (ADW) Gun	1	0	↓	
Total Violent Crime	7	5	↓	
Burglary	5	2	↓	
Theft	25	14	↓	
Theft F/Auto	24	18	↓	
Stolen Auto	4	9	↑	
Arson	0	0	↔	
Total Property Crime	58	43	↓	
Total Crime	65	48	↓	

3D (PSA 308): Commander Stuart Emerman thanked Commissioner Marriott for his commitment to public safety. PSA 308's biggest increase has been in Stolen Autos where delivery drivers have been leaving their vehicles running. He urged drivers to turn their vehicles off. He is still seeing a large reduction in Violent Crime and Property Crime and credits this reduction to people staying indoors. He addressed the homelessness issue on O Street and has been in contact with DPR. They are looking at water spigots and electrical outlets and doing outreach with HHS.

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Brown stated he has been out of DC from April to July and questioned when the increase in homelessness in his SMD started. He was informed it started in December 2019. Commander Emerman responded there are mental health issues, substance abuse and chemical dependence issues in this regard. Periodic cleanups are being done, a hand washing station has been added, as well as a porta potty. DGS does have plans to renovate the park, but an exact timeline has not been determined.

Commissioner Wiggins asked about the status of 15 cars being broken into on the 1300 block of 5th Street, NW. He also stated there are perpetrators stealing packages from apartment buildings who are hard to identify because they are wearing facemasks.

Commissioner Padro stated that the neighborhood continues to experience a high level of lawlessness, especially the 1300 block of 8th Street, the 1200 block of 9th Street reported by business owners, and the 700 block of T Street. He is getting reports of aggressive panhandling on 7th, 8th and 9th Streets. He asked if there was any update on the 1300 block of 8th Street and related locations. Commander Emerman responded there has been one gambling arrest. He also stated that persons with mental health issues have been approaching diners at outdoor patio seating areas. Commander Emerman was asked about the camera at 8th & O Streets, NW and responded it was on his priority list.

Officer Michael Dae stated that residents can text 50411 or call 202-727-9099 to give anonymous tips.

The community asked questions relating to gunshots on the 400 block of N Street, NW and whether the police make runs at night at the O Street Park.

Update on 7-Eleven Security [6E05]: Joe Horn and John Rowland with 7-Eleven responded to questions from Commissioners. Commissioner Marriott stated he wants to hear more detail about heightened security and was informed there is a Special Police Officer (SPO) there. Commissioner Marriott stated there has been concern about loitering and aggressive panhandling there and was informed that 7-Eleven staff have been instructed to set up tables on certain days. Commissioner Marriott also asked whether it was the same individuals causing the trouble and whether they are being banned. He also asked how many people have been banned due to negative behavior. He was informed 7-Eleven has a binder with pictures of 20 to 30 individuals.

Commissioner Judd stated that the police are doing a good job there.

Commissioner Padro asked about a fire at the 7th and Rhode Island Avenue, NW location. He was informed that this 7-Eleven is not in their jurisdiction, but that he will email Commissioner Padro the name of the contact person for that 7-Eleven.

1D (PSA 103): Captain Jonathan Dorrough reported that Violent Crime is still up, especially in Mount Vernon Triangle. Property Crime is experiencing an uptick entirely due to stolen autos. 4th & K Street, NW is a hotspot for stolen autos. MPD has tried ticketing the vehicles and contacting various delivery services. The stolen cars are being used in Violent Crime.

IV. **PRESENTATION BY THE DC BOARD OF ELECTIONS ON VOTING PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION 2020**

Executive Director Alice Miller and Chairman of the Board Michael Bennett were guest speakers.

Michael Bennett stated there is a statute requiring that ballots be sent to every registered voter in the District of Columbia. Voting will start on October 27 through November 3, 2020. Ballots will go out the first part of October. The city is contracting with a mailing house to send out the ballots. The ballots will be tracked through the Post Office. In DC, mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 and be in their hands by November 13, 2020. They have purchased 55 drop boxes and there is map on their website marking the locations. There will be a Town Hall on September 17, 2020.

Alice Miller stated there are 16 early voting centers in each ward and they will be open starting October 27, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a total of 90 early voting centers throughout the city on Election Day/Election Week. Residents are able to vote at any of the voting centers in the city. The drop boxes weigh 400 pounds, are made of galvanized metal, and are bolted into the ground.

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Judd stated he has filed the required paperwork, but does not see his name on the List of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Jeanné Lewis stated the information on the website is incorrect – it has the campaign address and not the candidate address listed. Ms. Miller will investigate.

V. **1018 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW (H & O, LLC, THE ROASTED BOON CO.): REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR A CLASS “C” TAVERN LICENSE [6E01]**

Henok Melke was present representing H&O, LLC, The Roasted Boon Co.

Commissioner Padro stated the applicant previously appeared before ANC 6E in June 2020 for a Public Space Permit for a Sidewalk Cafe. They are currently in operation as a coffee shop and would also like to serve wine. African wines will be featured to promote the culture from that region. They are looking for support for a Stipulated License as well. The ABC Licensing Committee met and recommended support by the full Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that ANC 6E **support** the request for support from H&O, LLC, The Roasted Boon Co. 1018 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, with the provisions that the capacity of 20 in the sidewalk café is restricted to seated patrons only, that there will be no standing patrons served in the sidewalk cafe, and no entertainment endorsement for the establishment. Further, that ANC 6E support a stipulated Class “C” Tavern license for this establishment, and that said support be communicated in writing to the ABC Board and ABRA. The Motion **passed** 4 yeas (Commissioners Nigro, Judd, Padro, Brown) – 0 nays – 1 abstention (Commissioner Wiggins).

VI. 600 T STREET, NW (600 T): REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE FOR A SUMMER GARDEN ENDORSEMENT FOR 28 SEATS [6E02]

Stephen Lawrence was present representing 600 T Street.

Commissioner Padro stated that ANC 6E supported the establishment's license renewal in 2019. The establishment has applied for a Substantial Change and is requesting a Summer Garden endorsement with 28 seats. There will be six tables with COVID-19 restrictions. The proposed hours of operation and hours of alcoholic beverage sales, service, and consumption for outdoors in the Summer Garden will be Sunday through Saturday 2:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Commissioner Padro stated ANC 6E's ABC Licensing Committee met and that the hours of operation will cease at midnight. The committee recommended support for the Substantial Change request and also recommended support for a stipulated license.

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that ANC 6E **support** the request for support from 600 T Street, NW (600 T) for a substantial change for a Summer Garden Endorsement for 28 seats, that this is only for seating capacity in the Summer Garden, that ANC 6E further support that the substantial change be issued on a stipulated basis so that service can begin immediately, and that said support be communicated in writing to the ABC Board and ABRA. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

Commissioner Nigro stated the establishment has agreed to advertise future employment opportunities throughout ANC 6E and to contact the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement to solicit potential applicants from its Pathways Program who meet the criteria for a job opening.

VII. 440 R STREET, NW, FORMERLY SAMUEL F. B. MORSE SCHOOL, (AFRICARE HOUSE): REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR NOMINATION FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION [6E02]

Represented were: Alyssa Stein, EHT Traceries, Inc., Travis Fleisher, 440 R Street Partners, LLC, and Charles Warren, Architect.

This building is located outside of the Shaw Historic District and is, therefore, being considered as a landmark outside of the historic district. Proposed changes to the historic district, if approved, will make this property part of the Shaw Historic District.

The building was purchased in December 2019 from Africare by 440 R Street Partners, LLC . While Africare occupied the building, the designation of the use of the building was somehow eventually deemed as being non-conforming. As for the history of the building, it was built in 1889 and originally used as a DC Public School for special classes. Throughout its evolution, the other uses were: an elementary school, a school for white students, a school for black children and finally the Africare House who purchased it in the mid-1980s as office space.

The developers noted that through the various uses and changes of the building, several renovations have resulted in not much of the original fabric, interior or exterior, remaining. Most of the windows were changed and the exterior of the building has been repeatedly painted. According to the preservation experts, the building was originally red brick. However, it is the belief that over time the bricks may have become damaged or decayed which possibly remedied by painting to make the façade uniform. There are stairwells that are believed to be original and are designated to remain unchanged in this new development.

The other two lots east and west of the lot seeking historic designation will remain independent and not affiliated with the application. There will be a parking lot on the west end of the building and 5 spaces are being proposed. As for accessibility, there is a ramp on the east end of the building. According to the development team, they are proposing another accessibility ramp on the west end of the building, however, there is a challenge in which they are trying to resolve. The challenge is that the incline from the sidewalk to the door is very steep and will require further review as to how to make it work. Anthony Brown, Chair of the ANC 6E Zoning, Transportation and Planning Committee, stated the committee met on August 27, 2020 and asked that the developer provide the revised drawing including the second ramp in order to receive Zoning Committee approval support.

This development will be creating 12 two bedroom condominiums ranging between 1,100 and 1,200 square feet, 4 units per floor. The other particulars of the renovation will include: new exterior windows and replacing the old transoms; replacing the atrium with new glass and steel windows, adding cellar and rooftop terraces, and replacing the roof. There will be cutouts for terraces of the upper floor to extend terrace which will be built out of the site line of the cornice in compliance with HP guidelines. There will be minor changes to the exterior: new landscaping and parking lot.

Anthony Brown stated a motion was made at the committee's August 27, 2020 meeting to support this landmark application, with a caveat that the developers submit revised drawings to include the accessible ramp on the west end of the development. Should the revised plans not be submitted, then the full ANC would render their final decision. Following the August 27, 2020 Zoning Committee Meeting, the applicant responded with the revised plan incorporating the accessible access on the west end of the building.

A community question and answer period followed in which residents raised concerns over parking, air conditioning units on the ground and not on the roof, dumpster location, retention of the ivy wall, and removal of two large trees.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that ANC 6E **support** the nomination for historic designation of 440 R Street, NW (Africare House) as well as the concept plan for the development as presented and that said support be communicated in writing to the Office of Historic Preservation. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON COBB PARK BY DC DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION [6E07]

Representatives present were: Brent Sisco, Capital Projects Division, DPR and David Wooden, Architect, Project Manager, DPR.

Cobb Park has \$500,000 for park improvements. A committee meeting was held back in January 2020. DPR has partnered with Mount Vernon Triangle. Cobb Park sits on top of the 3rd Street Tunnel. A slide presentation was presented which featured the Project Vision, Project Site, Concept Plan, and Estimated Schedule: October 2020 (Contractor Selection); November 2020 (Design & Permitting); December 2020 (Construction Start); March 2021 (Substantial Completion).

A question and answer period followed. Commissioner Wiggins asked whether there will be fencing around the park and was informed that a community meeting will be scheduled.

Alex Lopez stated the southeast corner of H St and 3rd St NW has a wide corner radius. As a result, cars coming eastbound on H St and turning south onto 3rd St can whip around the corner at high speed. This creates a safety concern for pedestrians in the area, especially with the proposed crosswalk on 3rd St connecting the two sections of Cobb Park that will be used by more people, including children. He recommended that the corner radius be tightened to closer to 90 degrees so that turning vehicles will take the turn more slowly.

A resident asked about the donation of artwork.

IX. PRESENTATION ON S STREET, NW REVITALIZATION [6E02]

Represented were: Jerrell Johnson, Public Outreach Coordinator; Abdullahi Mohamed, DDOT Project Manager.

A recorded presentation on the S Street, NW was played.

The goals of the project are: **(1)** improve safety for all travel modes; **(2)** enhance pedestrian connectivity; **(3)** discourage speeding; and **(4)** upgrade designated features along the roadway.

Four (4) alternatives were considered:

1. Mid-city East Livability Option (dropped from further consideration);
2. Close S Street in Triangle; 1-way 5th Street SB, from Florida Avenue to Alley;
3. Close S Street in the Triangle; add 2nd Lane 5th Street SB, with reduced parking;
4. S Street in the Triangle remains open; implement road diet/traffic calming.

After extensive study and analysis, DDOT recommends Alternative #3.

Commissioner Padro expressed concerns about Alternative #3 and felt that Alternative #4 was a better option. Alex Lopez, Chair of ANC 6E's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), suggested that a community walkthrough observing social distancing be done of the affected area with DDOT representatives. The TAC will review the designs at its 9/29/20 meeting and make recommendations for ANC 6E action.

X. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: RESOLUTION TO FILE COMMENTS WITH THE DDOT NOTICE OF INTENT FOR THE CAR FREE LANES ON 7TH STREET TO RE-EMPHASIZE SUPPORT FOR THE 7TH STREET BIKE LANE EXTENSION BETWEEN N STREET AND MT. VERNON PLACE

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that ANC 6E support the ANC 6E Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Resolution providing comments to DDOT on the 7th Street, NW Car Free Lane NOI, and include language that there will be additional bicycle traffic entering 7th Street from the new K Street, NW bicycle infrastructure. The Motion **passed** 3 yeas (Commissioners Padro, Judd, Nigro) – 1 nay (Commissioner Wiggins) - 1 abstention (Commissioner Brown).

XI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

XII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE 7/7/2020 MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Padro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that the Minutes of the **July 7, 2020** ANC 6E Public Meeting be approved with any edits to be submitted to the Recording Secretary. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIII. CHANGE OF DATE FOR NOVEMBER 2020 PUBLIC MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Judd seconded that the November meeting date be changed to Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XIV. CHANGE WEB PAGE – ADDITION OF COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the ANC 6E webmaster add a page on the ANC 6E website for committee meeting agendas and minutes. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Wiggins stated that as of August 31, 2020, the balance in the checking account is \$43,120.72. Approval of the Quarterly Report was **tabled** until the October 6, 2020 Public Meeting.

1. GRANT DISCUSSION

Commissioner Nigro stated she would like to have a discussion about grants and increasing the amount in the budget.

2. FY 2021 BUDGET

The Commission agreed to present the FY 2021 Budget at the October 6, 2020 Public Meeting.

XVI. APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

- A. MOTION:** Commissioner Marriott moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the invoice submitted by Karen Jehle in the amount of \$250.00 for recording services for the **ANC 6E September 1, 2020 Public Meeting** and website maintenance be approved for payment. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
- B. MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the Zoom Invoice dated 6/26/20 in the amount of \$68.89 submitted by Commissioner Nigro for videoconference services be approved for payment. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
- C. MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the Zoom Invoice dated 8/26/20 in the amount of \$68.89 submitted by Commissioner Nigro for videoconference services be approved for payment. The Motion **passed** unanimously.
- D. MOTION:** Commissioner Wiggins moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the check in the amount of \$25.00 for the ANC 6E Security Fund that was lost in the mail be reissued. The Motion **passed** unanimously.

XVII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A.** Mikaela Ferrill, Ward 6 Liaison, for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), stated the following: **(1)** DCPS went back into session yesterday with virtual learning. The DCPS Hotline number is: 202-442-5885; **(2)** Counseling Hotline: 1-888-793-4357; **(3)** COVID-19 – the website has the most up to date information for locations for COVID testing: www.coronavirus.dc.gov; **(4)** Mayor Bowser charged the District of Columbia Facilities and Commemorative Expressions (DCFACES) Working Group with evaluating named DC Government-owned facilities and make recommendations as to what, if any, actions need to be taken if the person the facility is named for is inconsistent with DC values and in some way encouraged the oppression of African Americans and other communities of color or contributed to our long history of systemic racism. Areas of focus are: DC Government-owned streets, DC Government-owned buildings (libraries, schools, rec centers, etc., DC Government-owned parks, and other named public spaces; **(5)** she did a site with Alex Padro regarding rodents, trash disposal/storage.

- B. Commissioner Padro reiterated that District residents who have not already responded to the 2020 Census should do so now: <https://2020census.gov/>;
- C. Kenyattah Robinson, President & CEO of Mount Vernon CID, stated that the Mount Vernon CID is in the process of updating its strategic plan. More information can be found at: www.mountvernontriangle.org
- D. Commissioner Nigro thanked Marcus Whitaker and Ed Andersen for serving as co-hosts of the Zoom Videoconference for tonight's ANC 6E Public Meeting.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Nigro moved and Commissioner Padro seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion **passed** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
Cell: 703-606-2010
Email: karen-jehle@outlook.com